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Contact: Jay Ziegler
Kirsten Powers
Christine Wilkas
(202) 395-3230

**U.S. ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR WTO CONSULTATIONS ON
MEXICO'S HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP DUMPING ORDER**

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky announced today that the United States has requested WTO dispute settlement consultations regarding actions by Mexico in its antidumping investigation on high fructose corn syrup (HFCS). The United States is concerned that several actions initiated by the government of Mexico appear inconsistent with its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (Antidumping Agreement).

"Mexico recently imposed provisional antidumping measures on imports of high fructose corn syrup from the United States in a manner which appears to violate its WTO obligations," said Ambassador Barshefsky. "We are concerned about Mexico's actions in several respects, including a failure to determine whether there was sufficient evidence that the original petition was made by or on behalf of the domestic industry, failure to provide proper notification to the United States and failure to provide the U.S. industry timely access to the relevant information needed in the presentation of its case."

The Mexican National Chamber of Sugar and Alcohol Industries (Sugar Chamber), an association of producers of sugar in Mexico, filed a petition against imports of HFCS from the United States on January 14, 1997. On February 27, 1997, the Mexican Commerce Secretariat (SECOFI) published a notice initiating an antidumping investigation. On June 25, 1997, SECOFI published its preliminary affirmative determination of dumping and threat of material injury. Provisional tariffs ranged from \$66.50 to \$125.30 a metric ton for grade 42 fructose and \$63.40 to \$175.50 a metric ton for grade 55 fructose, or a 102.2% dumping tariff for grade 42 fructose and a 61.1% tariff for grade 55 fructose.

The request for consultations was made September 4, 1997. The consultations are expected to be held within 30 days.